



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

**GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 3(a), RULE II
OF THE RULES REGULATING ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW IN CALIFORNIA
(General Applicants with First Degrees in Law from Foreign Law Schools)**

- 1.1 A general applicant who has a first degree in law from a law school located in a foreign state or country must:
 - (A) Obtain from a credential evaluation service approved by the Committee a certificate that the applicant's first degree in law is substantially equivalent to a Juris Doctor degree awarded by a law school approved by the American Bar Association or accredited by the Committee; or
 - (B) Obtain from a credential evaluation service approved by the Committee a certificate that the applicant's first degree in law meets the educational requirements for admission to practice law in the foreign state or country in which it was obtained.
- 1.2 In addition to submitting to the Office of Admissions the certificate required by Guideline 1.1, an applicant must submit a certificate from a law school approved by the American Bar Association or accredited by the Committee certifying that the applicant has either:
 - (A) Been awarded a Master of Law degree (LL.M) based on a minimum of twenty (20) semester or equivalent units of legal education that included a minimum of one course in four separate subjects tested on the California Bar Examination of not less than a total of twelve (12) semester or equivalent units. One of the four courses must be Professional Responsibility that covers the California Rules of Professional Conduct, relevant sections of the California Business and Professions Code, the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and leading federal and state case law on the subject; or
 - (B) Successfully completed twenty (20) semester or equivalent units of legal education that included a minimum of one course in four separate subjects tested on the California Bar Examination of not less than a total of twelve (12) semester or equivalent units. One of the four courses must be Professional Responsibility that covers the California Rules of Professional Conduct, relevant sections of the California Business and Professions Code, the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and leading federal and state case law on the subject.
- 1.3 All course work for the degree required by Guideline 1.2(A) and all course work for the legal education required by Guideline 1.2(B) must be graded using the standards the law school uses in grading course work of students in its J.D. degree program. An applicant must receive a passing grade in all courses.

- 1.4 The degree required by Guideline 1.2(A) or the course work required by Guideline 1.2(B) must be awarded or completed, as applicable, within three calendar years of the date the applicant began qualifying study at a law school whether or not the LL.M degree is awarded by or the course work is completed at that law school. An applicant begins study on the first day of his or her first semester or term of qualifying study.